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# CURRENT LITERATURE

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Handbook of Dendrology**

The first volume of SCHNEIDER's work is now complete and it must be judged a very important addition to dendrological literature.<sup>1</sup> It contains the families from Salicaceae to Pomaceae, and therefore deals with some of the most difficult families and genera of ligneous plants. The treatment is very exhaustive and an immense amount of information has been crowded into a comparatively small space. This could not be done without some disadvantage, however, for the numerous abbreviations make the perusal of the book somewhat difficult until one has become familiar with the shortened technical terms and the whole arrangement of the book. At the first glance it becomes apparent that the work is not a mere compilation, but based on original and thorough studies. The author shows himself well versed in botanical literature, both the older and the more recent, and must have examined a vast amount of herbarium material, for he quotes freely herbarium specimens, particularly in the more critical and in the new and more recently published species; in regard to *Crataegus*, for instance, he remarks that he had examined about 2000 specimens of American species.

The general treatment resembles somewhat that of ASCHERSON and GRAEBNER's *Mittleuropäischer Flora*, and, as in that work, much attention has been paid to varieties and hybrids, which of course is to be expected in a book devoted chiefly to cultivated plants. The arrangement of the species under dichotomous keys facilitates determination; some large genera are preceded by special keys, *e. g.*, there is a key to determine the 65 species of oaks from the foliage, and one to determine the 62 species of willows from flowering specimens without leaves. A great help for the determination are the numerous clear and well-reproduced illustrations, mostly representing analyses; according to the numbering they are 460, but each consists of 10 to 20 separate drawings, chiefly by the author himself. Not only are the species actually in cultivation described, but also related species not in cultivation and species likely to be sooner or later introduced are mentioned and more or less fully described, so that in several cases the treatment amounts really to a short monograph on the genus in question. Many new species and varieties, chiefly from China, but also from North America, appear here for the first time, and of course a large number of new combinations have incidentally been made. The nomenclature is that of the Vienna Congress; unfortunately

<sup>1</sup> SCHNEIDER, CAMILLO KARL, *Illustriertes Handbuch der Laubholzkunde; Charakteristik der in Mitteleuropa einheimischen und im Freien angepflanzten angiospermen Gehölz-Arten und Formen mit Ausschluss der Bambuseen und Kakteen*. Band I. 8vo. pp. 810. *figs.* 460. Jena. 1904-1906.

the first parts of the book were published before that congress, and in these, therefore, a somewhat different nomenclature had been used, but the deviations from the Vienna rules are corrected at the end of the volume.

There is much in the book of great importance to American botanists. Genera like *Philadelphus*, *Cercocarpus*, *Holodiscus*, *Spiraea*, *Prunus*, *Amelanchier*, *Crataegus*, and other American genera of *Saxifragaceae*, *Drupaceae*, *Rosaceae*, and *Pomaceae* are exhaustively treated and many valuable notes on the affinities, the systematic value, and the conception of American species are included. It would of course be impossible to give here further details of the author's treatment of American species and of his notes and remarks, nor would it be of much use to select at random a few of them.

The book will prove not only indispensable to every student of cultivated trees and shrubs, but will also be of great importance to every botanist engaged in the study of the American, European, and Asiatic floras. In fact the work will amount almost to a representation of the whole ligneous flora of the temperate and colder regions of the northern hemisphere when it is completed, and it is to be hoped that the following volume or volumes will show the same thorough and careful treatment as the one now before us.—ALFRED REHDER.

#### Errera Botanical Institute

Two sumptuous volumes have recently appeared, containing the papers originating in this Institute.<sup>2</sup> As a publication the *Recueil* was planned by the late Professor LÉO ERRERA in 1902, and the first four volumes were intended to contain all the work done before that date in the botanical institute of which he was the inspiring director. But of these four only volume 1 is now first published. Volume 5 appeared in 1902 and contained papers prepared in 1900–1901. Volume 6 continues the series, under the editorship of Professor MASSART, the successor of the lamented founder, whose name the institute now bears.

In volume 1 as a frontispiece will be found an excellent photogravure of Professor ERRERA; ground plans of the institute are inserted; there are eleven papers by ERRERA himself, mostly reprinted, bearing on glycogen in the plant kingdom, beginning with his thesis in 1882 and closing with the posthumous and incomplete papers which have already been noticed in this journal.<sup>3</sup> Other reprints are:

The titles of three papers and the text of one, by ÉMILE LAURENT, all dealing with the physiology of yeasts, and another on the formation of starch from organic solutions; GEORGES CLAUTRIAU'S paper (1895) on glycogen in fungi,

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<sup>2</sup> *Recueil de l'Institut botanique* (Université de Bruxelles) publié par L. ERRERA. Tome I, avec cinq planches. Glycogène, amidon et autres réserves non azotées.

*Recueil de l'Institut botanique* Léo Errera (Université de Bruxelles) publié par JEAN MASSART. Tome VI, avec vingt-sept figures dans le texte et vingt-trois planches. Bruxelles: Henri Lamertin. 1906. Each *fr.* 25.

<sup>3</sup> *BOT. GAZETTE* 41:370. 1906, and 43:79. 1907.